

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 DODE-00 OIC-04 AID-20

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 NSC-07 H-03 PM-07 OC-06 CCO-00 IO-14 /153 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:RWCHASE:TGGRANT:AMP

APPROVED BY P - JOSE H J. SISCO

NEA/SSOBER

DOD/I A:RPEYER

EUR/NE:CFLOYD (INFO)

IO/OIC:TDOUBLEDAY (INFO)

AID/NESA:JTUCKER (SUBS)

USIA/INE:RHELGERSON (SUBS)

S/SO WHLUERS

S - MR. BREMER

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R 220035Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CENTO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL

SUMMARY: WASHINGTON VISIT MARCH 10-16 BY NASSIR ASSAR,
CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL, APPEARS TO HAVE GONE WELL AND
BEEN USEFUL TO ALL CONCERNED. END SUMMARY

1. SYG MET WITH SECSTATE ON MARCH 11 AND ATTENDED SMALL
WORKING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY HIM. IN ADDITION TO CENTO
AMBASSADORS AND SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, GUESTS INCLUDED
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DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS, AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER

AND JCS CHAIRMAN ADMIRAL MOORER.

2. SECSTATE EMPHASIZED THAT EVENTS OF LAST YEAR HAVE MADE CENTO ALLIANCE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO US AND TO AREA STABILITY. HE URGED REGIONAL PARTNERS TO TAKE LONG LOOK AHEAD, FIVE OR TEN YEARS, AND ASSESS ROLE OF CENTO IN THEIR OWN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND THEN DISCUSS WITH US (AND UK) WHAT OUR RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD BE TO MEET MUTUAL SECURITY GOALS.

3. IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO, ASSAR WAS REASSURED OF IMPORTANCE OF CENTO ALLIANCE, BUT WAS WARNED THAT REGIONAL PARTNERS MUST REMEMBER CENTO NOT REPEAT NOT ESTABLISHED FOR, NOR IS US PREPARED TO GET INVOLVED IN, REGIONAL DIFFERENCES. LATTER POINT WAS

CLEARLY SPELLED OUT AGAIN IN WRAP-UP SESSION WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER.

4. IN MEETING WITH AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MACDONALD ASSAR PUSHED FOR US SUPPORT ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR A MINISTRIAL-LEVEL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING MEETING (HE WAS OFFERED SYMPATHETIC EAR WHEN PROJECT SPELLED OUT IN MORE DETAIL). HE AGREED THAT TIGHTER ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL IS NEEDED IN CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PREPARATION AND SAID HE WOULD ESTABLISH LINE OF COMMAND THROUGH AMERICAN ECONOMIC SECRETARY (BURGESS AND REPLACEMENT). HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT INFORMAL DIRECT CONTACTS HE HAS DEVELOPED TO REGIONAL COUNTRY MINISTRIES AND OFFICIALS SHOULD BE CONTINUED, FEARING FORMAL APPROACH TO GOVERNMENTS TO APPROVE DIRECT CONTACTS MIGHT BRING VETO AND CUTTING OF PRESENT PIPELINES.

5. IN HIS MEETING WITH USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH, ASSAR OUTLINED HIS INTEREST IN STIMULATING A MORE ACTIVE CULTURAL AND INFORMAL EXCHANGE WITHIN CENTO AND WITH US. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED HIS DESIRE TO SEE GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN RADIO AND T.V. MEDIA OF CENTO COUNTRIES AND AN EXCHANGE OF FELLOWSHIPS ON THE OCCASION OF CENTO'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1975. HE ALSO EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO HAVE AN AMERICAN ON THE CENTO SECRETARIAT STAFF IN AN INFORMAL-CONFIDENTIAL

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TIONAL CAPACITY. MR. KEOGH ASSURED SYG THAT USIA WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THESE POSSIBILITIES WITH HIM, AND INVITED HIM TO PROVIDE USIA WITH MORE SPECIFIC DETAILS.

6. ASSAR ALSO CALLED ON CONGRESSMAN LEE H. HAMILTON, CHAIRMAN OF HFAC SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA. ASSAR EMPHASIZED CENTO'S ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

AND HIS HOPE US WILL BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN BOTH AREAS. IN RESPONSE TO HAMILTON'S REQUEST FOR HIS COMMENTS ON EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES, ASSAR SAID IT IS NATURAL FOR GREAT POWER TO MAINTAIN PRESENCE IN AREAS OF STRATEGIC CONCERN, IN THIS CASE SHIPPING LANES FROM PETROLEUM PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

7. ON MARCH 14, ADMIRAL PEET (DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE) ACTING FOR ISA, HOSTED WORKING LUNCHEON FOR SYG WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF JOINT STAFF, OSD/ISA AND DEPARTMENT. TWO PRINCIPAL TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED: CRITICAL CENTO REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE MACHINE CRYPTO SYSTEMS AND SCOPE OF SCHEDULED AND FUTURE CENTO EXERCISES. ASSAR HOPED US PARTICIPATION IN MIDLINK WOULD INCLUDE A NUCLEAR ATTACK SUBMARINE AND AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER. ALSO HE WAS INTERESTED IN US PARTICIPATION IN SHABAZ WITH POSSIBLE US SORTIES INTO PAKISTAN. US PRINCIPALS DID

NOT COMMIT THE US TO ANY DEFINITE COURSE OF ACTION PROMISING ONLY TO REVIEW PROBLEMS AND REMAIN OPENMINDED TOWARD POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS OR COURSES OF ACTION.

8. DEPUTY SYG AKIMAN MET WITH OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND NEA PERSONNEL TO REVIEW PLANNING TO DATE FOR WASHINGTON MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY 21-22, INCLUDING INSPECTION OF SECRETARIAT OFFICE, PRESS AND GENERAL CONFERENCE FACILITIES.

COMMENT: ASSAR'S VISIT WAS USEFUL MIXTURE OF HIGH LEVEL ENCOURAGEMENT REGARDING IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO CENTO COUPLED WITH FRANK DISCUSSION OF OUR INTENTION TO RESIST ANY EFFORT TO REDIRECT CENTO MILITARY FOCUS FROM SOVIET THREAT TO INTRA-REGIONAL DISPUTES. LATTER POINT SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL BACKGROUND DURING DRAFTING SESSIONS ON POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER BETWEEN NOW AND MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MAY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PAPERS, NAVAL FORCES, MILITARY ATTACHES, MILITARY VISITS, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE057512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWCHASE:TGGRANT:AMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740061-0367
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740322/aaaaaujp.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL SUMMARY: WASHINGTON VISIT MARCH 10-16 BY NASSIR ASSAR
TAGS: MARR, UR, CENTO, (ASSAR, NASSIR)
To: ANKARA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005